



## IN SPITE OF WILLIS

The Compensation Statute Has More Than Fulfilled Expectations, State Commission Reports.

Columbus, Ohio. — Reviewing work done in 18 months under the compulsory workmen's compensation law, now on the statute books of Ohio, the State Industrial Commission says that the law "has more than fulfilled the expectations of its staunchest supporters and with few exceptions has the endorsement of practically all of those employers who were opposed to its enactment."

The board continues: "The compensation of injured and the dependents of killed workmen through governmental agency no longer is an experiment. It is a well recognized function of our State government and it is here to stay."

"Ohio employers are satisfied with the present law and few would care to return to the old liability system, with the attendant economic waste, controversy and ill feeling connected therewith. Still fewer Ohio workmen would revert to the old way of settling claims."

"The employers of this State are paying less for compensation insurance and full statutory protection than they paid to commercial companies for liability insurance and limited protection. Ohio workmen, under the present law, receive a more generous measure of compensation than the workmen of any other State with the exception of New York, and their medical expenses up to a limit of \$200 are paid in every instance from the State insurance fund, as well as funeral expenses not exceeding \$150 in event of death."

"For the year and a half that the law has been in operation there has been a total of 139,337 injuries reported to the Claims Department. Each constituted a claim for compensation or medical attention. Of the total number 100,550 filed against the State insurance and 28,005 against those employers who assume their own risk and pay compensation direct."

"Records in the actuarial division of the Insurance Department show that on June 30, 1915, there were 16,960 employers carrying the State insurance fund and 656,527 employees protected by it. This is an increase of 1,832 employers and 25,080 employees over the preceding report. There is a total of 1,135 self-insurance risks with 182,822 employees."

## PRISON LABOR BOARD IS ORGANIZED.

Harrisburg, Pa.—The State Prison Labor Board, created by the last Legislature to supervise the work of prisoners in State penal and reform institutions, was organized recently. Under the law the board receives an appropriation of \$175,000 to purchase machinery and supplies and establish the system.

The supplies will be sold only to State institutions, and prisoners are to be paid from 10 cents to 50 cents a day. Three-fourths of earnings go to the dependents of prisoners. Where there are no dependents the money is credited to the prisoners, who will receive one-third when discharged, one-third three months later, and one-third six months later. It is hoped that this plan will be extended, thereby solving the convict-labor problem. The office of the State Prison Labor Board will be at Philadelphia.

## EXPORTS MAKE RECORD.

Washington—September was a record-breaker for United States exports, the figures being the largest in the history of the bureau, according to a statement made by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The export for September, this year, totaled \$300,676,822, compared with \$126,052,333 for the same month of last year. The imports also showed an increase in September of this year, the first time an increase has been shown for many months. The figures indicate that \$151,256,026 worth of materials were imported into the country in September, 1915, as compared with \$139,710,611 for the same month of last year.

## ADOPT MINIMUM WAGE LAW.

Cleveland—A minimum wage amendment to the City Charter was adopted at the recent election by a majority approximating 30,000. The act applies to all work done by the municipality, and provides that where a craft is organized the rates of that union must prevail. In trades and callings where no unions exist a minimum of \$2.50 per day shall be the rule.

## MEAT CUTTERS ORGANIZE.

Bloomington, Ill.—Meat cutters and butcher workmen have organized a union and affiliated to the International of that craft.

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## UNION IRON TO EMPLOY 4,000 MEN

\$3,000,000 to Be Spent By Local Shipbuilding Firm in Next Two Years; Much Work Ahead.

San Francisco, Cal.—With plans and contracts which mean the expenditure of more than \$3,000,000 and the employment of 4,000 men at steady work for the next two years, President John A. McGregor, of the Union Iron Works, returned yesterday from Washington and New York.

A big boom has struck the California shipbuilding industry. Ships that were idle a year ago are now humming with life and still busier times are ahead, according to McGregor.

McGregor not only brought the final agreement with the Government for the construction of a \$2,000,000 dry dock at Hunter's Point in the next two years, but contracts for new ships, plans for a new floating dry dock and for extensive improvements in the plant itself.

### Million for Improvements.

One million dollars will be spent in remodeling the foundry, extending the slips and building the floating dry dock. McGregor promised that the force at the works would go up to 4,000 at once.

An additional thousand or more men will be put to work on the dry dock.

The capacity of the plant will be taxed by the new ship orders, one of which is for a 10,000-ton ship. Nine ships are now being built at the works.

### McGregor Enthusiastic.

McGregor was enthusiastic over the outlook. He made the following statement:

"The agreement between the Government and the Union Iron Works for the giant dry dock has been completed, and bids for the construction of the same will be asked for immediately. The final agreement is the result of conferences which I had with Secretary of the Navy Daniels, Mr. Schwab, and the Chief of Yards and Docks of the Navy Department."

"According to the agreement, the dock is to be completed in two years, and from the time of its completion the Government agrees to pay us a minimum of fifty thousand dollars per annum. The dry-docking rates have been agreed upon, and we contract to take in the dry dock the largest vessel that can possibly pass through the Panama Canal."

### U. S. Control in War Time.

"The agreement stipulates that the Government shall practically control the dock during time of war, and in peace time shall have the preference, except where a merchant vessel is already in the dock."

"In addition to the big dock at Hunter's Point, we have decided to initiate extensive improvements in the works. This will include a floating dry dock 450 feet long, which will accommodate a ten-thousand-ton ship, the remodeling of the foundry and the extension of the slips, all to cost in the neighborhood of one million dollars."

"I have come back with contracts to build new steamers, one of which is to be a tanker 435 feet long, with a carrying capacity of sixty-five thousand barrels."

"All in all, we see busy times ahead of us for the next two years."

### FAVORS RESTRICTION.

San Francisco.—The A. F. of L. Executive Council favors continuing the fight in Congress for legislation restricting immigration. In its report to the convention now in session, the Council says:

"This is one of the most vital issues to the interest of the workers of the United States, and it must be disposed of and settled as speedily as possible. In addition to the dangers under normal conditions from practically unlimited immigration, the present European conflict makes the problem more pressing and important, for when the time shall come, when the fratricidal struggle of European workers shall come to an end, there may be expected an influx of immigration that will practically be overwhelming in numbers and of a character that will menace the conditions and ideals established by American workers."

### SUSPEND STEAMBOAT PROBE.

Washington.—Secretary of Commerce Redfield has ordered that the investigation of the steamboat inspection service of the Great Lakes be suspended. Steamboat inspectors who were conducting this probe have been ordered to their respective stations. It is stated that this order was issued as a result of the seamen's law, which became effective on American vessels November 4. The investigation started shortly after the Eastland disaster.

## PROPOSED TO INSURE HEALTH OF WORKMEN

Model Bill Drafted for the American Association—Employers, Employees and State Would Share Cost Applies to Men Who Earn Less Than \$100 Per Month.

New York.—The American Association for Labor Legislation recently made public the text of a bill designed to establish a system of health insurance for workers in this and other States. The association proposes to introduce the measure in the next New York Legislature and in other State Legislatures during the next few months. The general purpose of the proposed measure provides for health insurance for employees at the joint expense of employee, employer and State. As now drafted the employer and employee would contribute equally and the State would contribute one-fourth to this amount. The bill applies to all those engaged in manual labor and to all others earning less than \$100 a month. It would provide every insured worker with medical care, including nursing attendance, hospital care, medical and surgical supplies, and a cash benefit equal to two-thirds of the wage for a maximum of twenty-six weeks in a year. It also offers special care for the wife of an insured man.

### REJECT ALLEGED "M. O."

Detroit.—Trade unionists succeeded, at the last election, in defeating the proposed municipal ownership plan by an actual majority of 2,399. It was necessary to secure 60 per cent of the total vote cast. This means that the plan was rejected by about 10,000 votes.

Unionists opposed the plan because it made no provision for arbitrating grievances workers might present. It was proposed to make the commission that would run the street cars absolute dictators, beyond the control of the City Council or other representatives of the people. The powerful Street Car Men's Union showed that if this plan was adopted it would be impossible to enforce contractual relations similar to those now existing between them and the present company, and that they were in danger of losing every advance it has taken years to secure. The unionists attempted to have the proposal amended so that the workers' rights would be protected. In this they failed, as they defeated the plan.

By the small majority of 167 an amendment was carried which empowers the city to adopt the plan. It is claimed that under this amendment the defeated proposal can be resubmitted to the people.

### INCREASES FOR CAR EMPLOYEES

Chicago.—By a six to one vote employees of the elevated railway accepted a wage contract agreed to by their committee and the company. Increased wages total \$350,000 a year, and apply to not only motormen, conductors, trammens, towermen and switchmen, but car cleaners, shopmen, women ticket agents, trackmen and others. The union is affiliated to the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees.

The Union of Surface Street Car Men, affiliated to the same international, recently secured substantial wage increases through an arbitration board after a short strike.

### ONLY 5,000 IDLE.

Columbus, Ohio.—No more than 5,000 of the 45,000 coal miners in the State are idle and indications are that there will be no repetition of last winter's destitution among miners' families, Governor Willis learned today. He had made special inquiry concerning the situation to learn whether it was possible the State may be called on for aid.

### CITIZEN SOLDIER PLAN

Favored By Samuel Gompers, San Francisco Citizens Are Told.

San Francisco.—Speaking on "Some American Problems" before the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, asked what the United States intended to do to prepare for the influx of immigration expected at the end of the war in Europe.

He also asked what the country would do when export business would be at a standstill and munition plants, now running to capacity, would be idle.

Mr. Gompers said he favored the citizen soldier plan and that so long as other nations of the world were arming themselves the United States could not disarm.

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## STABILITY LEAGUE WAS WET ADJUNCT

Columbus, O.—Election expense accounts filed with the secretary of state show the Stability League and the Ohio Temperance Union were adjuncts of the wet interests.

Of the \$32,887 spent by the Stability League, \$29,000 was contributed by the Ohio Home Rule Association. Of \$14,444 spent by the Ohio Temperance Union, \$12,250 came from the same source.

More than half a million dollars was spent for or against prohibition, and the Stability League amendments. The largest amounts were: The Ohio Home Rule Association, \$367,352, and the Ohio Anti-Saloon League, \$52,629. Most of the money spent by the wets came from the Home Rule Association.

## CINCINNATIAN TRYING TO END CHICAGO STRIKE

Klein Hopes to Have Board of Aldermen Act as Mediator.

Attorney Nicholas Klein is in Chicago, where he was called Monday to try to effect a settlement of the strike of the 22,000 garment workers in that city. The strikers have been out eight weeks. The busy season of the garment manufacturers begins this week. As a member of the Arbitration Committee, Attorney Klein is making an effort to have the strike settled through the Board of Aldermen in Chicago. He is hopeful of an agreement.

### MAY HAVE PICKETS ON JOB.

Hamilton, Ohio.—M. J. McMahon, organizer of the machinists, now out on a strike at eight shops in this city, after hearing that the Niles Tool Company would attempt to start work Monday morning called a meeting of all strikers for tomorrow afternoon. It is said that the strikers will have pickets at the shop to see that the shop is not able to start.

### TEAMSTERS MAKE GAINS.

Grand Rapids, Mich.—Members of Teamsters' Union No. 44 and the city garbage men are now working eight hours a day, with time and one-half for overtime.

Steubenville, O.—Teamsters have secured the passage of an ordinance which provides for the union rates for drivers employed by the city.

### SECURE HALF HOLIDAY.

Santa Barbara, Cal.—Plumbers, painters and sheet metal workers in this city have secured the Saturday half holiday without a strike.

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